

**METHOD AND MACHINE FOR VALIDATING AN IDENTIFIER AS
UNIQUE**

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method (200) and machine for validating that an identifier is
unique within an ad-hoc network (100) of machines. The method
comprises obtaining the identifier (220) and then sending a claim
request for the identifier to machines in the network (100). Thereafter a
step validating the identifier as unique is effected only if an
invalidation message is not received within a predefined time period.
The invalidation message is indicative of the identifier already being
allocated to one of the machines in the network (100).

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